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in this process some untrue, consequently, unwholesome, matter is mixed with the powder, which is no longer recognisable since all the evidence of its origin is lost.' This is the object of the Archives ; may they succeed in fulfilling it."

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### WILSON'S PRE-HISTORIC MAN.\*

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THE first edition of this work was published in 1863 ; and acting on the rule which a known and certain zoological law has laid down—that a great longevity is oftentimes granted to animals of a slow circulation—the year 1866 witnesses a fresh edition.

Let us examine how far the second differs from the first. The author acknowledges that in his first edition "Some errors beyond the reach of errata also resulted from the want of proof sheets. But of these it is only necessary to notice here the woodcut, fig. 58, p. 446, which was introduced with the title of one now correctly given on p. 449, as an example of the normal Peruvian dolichocephalic skull." Charles II is said to have said to a lady of the court whose dress was somewhat dilapidated, "that a rent is better than a darn ; a rent is the accident of a minute, but a darn is premeditated and deliberate poverty." Dr. Wilson's darned craniology is certainly worse than his former slips. The reviewer of his work in these pages (vol. i, p. 139) pointed out that he gave a figure which he considered to be that of a well proportioned symmetrical skull, unaltered by any artificial appliances. This skull was undoubtedly artificially distorted ; as any one but Dr. Wilson might see. He not only repeats the blunder in the present edition ; but actually makes it worse, by altering the title of a Peruvian dolichocephalic skull, supposed by him to be naturally dolichocephalic, to that of a "depressed skull." If he had stopped here, we might have considered it a harmless error, in which the feeble mind of the writer was seen struggling vaguely to extricate himself from the blunder which he had committed, without precisely knowing where the blunder was. A critic might at least have given him credit for good intentions. Yet he has actually introduced a new artificially compressed skull (his woodcut 59 on p. 449) which he calls a "Peruvian dolichocephalic skull." This skull is just as much artificially compressed as the other one ; and in spite of the enormous parade of facts

\* *Prehistoric Man; Researches into the Origin of Civilisation in the Old and the New World.* By Daniel Wilson, LL.D. Second Edition.

which Mr. Wilson adduces, the homely comparison is applicable to him that he has gone "out of the frying-pan into the fire."

The scope of the work professes to deal with "pre-historic man", yet the majority of instances are invariably taken from America. If there were really evidences of man in the American geological period; if the Natchez man and the New Orleans man had been actually pre-historic individuals; if the proofs on which Lund surmised that early man in Brazil inhabited the bone caves of that country with the extinct animals, were before us; we might then with some show of plausibility demand for pre-historic man in America an amount of attention equal to that which is bestowed on our ancient human remains in the Old World. But we have really no positive evidence before us of fossil man in the New World. And when we travel towards the present era, less and less grounds are afforded to us whereon to assert even the antiquity of American "pre-historic" civilisation. Mexico, Peru, and the buried cities of Central America, have, it is true, afforded us evidence of a high civilisation prior to the advent of the Spanish conquerors. But the proof of the time during which this civilisation prevailed is always lacking. The generations of kings, on whom so many imaginary genealogies have been founded, are as untrustworthy evidence of historical fact as the genealogies of the Welsh or the Siamese. We fear that at present the question of pre-historic man in America must rest in abeyance until some one gifted with the critical historical faculty—some future Niebuhr—arises; and then it is possible that science may be evolved out of the chaos which now exists. If the physical evidence of the descent of the present American aborigines from a stock distinct from those of the Old World is investigated, the following is the first broad result. A Peruvian skull resembles a Mexican skull; a Mexican skull resembles a Californian skull; a Californian resembles a British Columbian; many British Columbians resemble Esquimaux (of the west coast); and from the Esquimaux of Behring's Straits to the Tschuktschi and Koriaks, the transition is easy. We are then plunged into the so-called "Mongolian" races, at the extreme north-eastern corner of Asia. Although the above *sortes* is roughly sketched, we may challenge the most detailed reference to craniometry before it can be disproved. The philological evidence is, however, of course apart; this in the hands of Dr. Wilson, is as nothing. We have to congratulate him on being the author of a large work which has run through two editions, and succeeded in teaching nothing of importance with regard to its subject. As the work stands before us, it comprises more than 600 pages, which might with great advantage to the author's reputation, and his readers' patience, have been compressed into 100. We can

but quote the last sentence. After doing nothing of real work himself to solve the difficulty of pre-historic man, the "*Deus ex machina*" is as usual invoked to pick him out of the mud ; and he concludes : " I venture to hope that the process of investigation and reasoning here pursued may unravel some perplexities, and show such an approximation to a beginning in relation to man's intellectual progress, as to confirm the anticipation that ampler knowledge will bring with it fresh evidence of harmony between the disclosures of science and the dictates of revelation."

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### THE KHONDS OF ORISSA.\*

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MAJOR MACPHERSON'S life, written by his brother, Mr. William Macpherson, is a record of the highest interest as including the private life of a man of great ability and force of character, the history of his important political work in India, and the account of his well-directed efforts to raise in the scale of civilisation the hill tribes of Orissa. For the objects of this Journal, however, Major Macpherson's descriptions of the bodily make, mental character, history, life, and habits of these Orissa Khonds are the main subjects of interest, and we shall confine ourselves to describing the leading details of his anthropological dissertations, which rank among the fullest and most remarkable contributions ever made to the history of savage life.

The Khonds, who were among the primitive races of Orissa, were driven by the Hindus to the forest and the hill, and now inhabit the hilly country and table lands of the Ghauts, the Khond district comprising about five hundred square miles. The extreme unhealthiness of their malarious climate, the poisonous effect of which extends even to unseasoned Hindus, and is simply deadly to Europeans, except for a few weeks in the year, has had the effect of keeping the Khond civilisation, though within a short journey of the Hindu civilisation of the plains, in an isolated state ; and it has thus, to a very remarkable degree, retained those original characteristics which, under circumstances more favourable to intercourse and admixture with surrounding races would no doubt have disappeared.

"The Khonds are fitted by physical constitution to undergo the severest exertions and to endure every form of privation. Their

\* *Memorials of Service in India*. From the Correspondence of the late Major Samuel Charters Macpherson, C.B. Edited by his brother, William Macpherson. London: John Murray. 1865.